

**Congressman Scott Garrett, Representing the 5th Congressional District of New Jersey**[Website](#) | [Biography](#) | [News](#) | [Photo Album](#) | [Issues](#) | [Services](#) | [Media](#) | [Contact](#)

Dear Friends,

The House of Representatives is coming back into session this week to consider a second stimulus package and a potential auto industry bailout. I have been extremely outspoken on these issues, and I am working to protect your taxpayer dollars and demand accountability from Congress for how your money is being spent. This weekend, I wrote an editorial in the New Jersey Herald that I would like to share with you, as I think it effectively articulates my feelings about the possibility of an auto industry bailout:

### **Bailout Nation**

Bear Stearns bailout. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac bailout. AIG bailout. \$700 billion bailout. Auto industry bailout. Medicaid bailout. Where do the bailouts end? Depends. How much money can you, the taxpayer, afford to pay?

Every bailout is the government committing you the taxpayer to pay more money. Thought you were saving for your children's college fund? Nope. That money is going to save Detroit. Thought you were going to save up for a house? Nope. That money is going to help people who bought houses they couldn't afford in the first place.

I have fought against all of these rash bailout measures, calling on my colleagues to stand against this commitment of your money with little or no government oversight. With the support of many of my colleagues, I called on President Bush for an increase in transparency to provide the American people and Members of Congress insight into the decision-making process that yielded the \$700 billion bailout plan. I also backed the bill that was introduced as the alternative to the \$700 billion bailout, the Free Market Protection Act. This Act contained many efforts to fundamentally address the systemic issues affecting the financial markets while preserving free market principles.

Every year, the government goes through an appropriations process of determining how much money will be budgeted for spending over the next fiscal year. There are hearings, there are debates, and while there could always be more oversight, there is at least a degree of accountability for how we are allotting money to be spent in the federal budget.

With these bailouts, however, there is no oversight. There are no hearings. There's a degree of exigency

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**Do you think  
Congress should pass  
a second stimulus  
package aimed at  
helping the economy?**

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### **Please Feel Free to Tell a Friend**

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There are no hearings, there is a degree of urgency, that started with Bear Stearns ("Too big to fail!") that has carried over to every other bailout proposal ("We bailed out Bear Stearns, why not Fannie and Freddie?!"). As a result of this "sky is falling" pressure to pass these bailout initiatives, Congress has spent almost as much in bailouts alone this year as it has in the federal budget. And has certainly ignored any attempt at the preservation of the free market.

Congress is currently discussing a "Stimulus II" package, to potentially be voted on next week. The word "stimulus" is really a misnomer, used to shore up public support for yet another bailout. In reality, it's "Spending II: Bailout Returns." It's unclear as to whether Nancy Pelosi will be fighting Apollo Creed in this bailout sequel, but by the end of the 110th Congress, there will be more chapters in the bailout saga than there are Rocky movies.

The line for a piece of the bailout pie is growing as businesses see an opportunity for free money from the government (aka: you, the taxpayer). American Express is faltering because of high credit card default rates. Their bailout handout means that you are writing a check to cover the people who aren't paying their credit card bills. The "Big Three" auto producers, Ford, Chrysler and General Motors, received a \$25 billion bailout in September. Now, they're back for more, claiming they need money to fund "innovation." You, the taxpayer, are writing a check to get them through this creative rough patch. Ethanol producers are also eagerly awaiting your money, as is the Medicaid program.

I am working diligently to find real and effective solutions to this economic crisis. There are other alternatives to constantly turning to the American taxpayers to bail out struggling companies, and I assure you I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to find ideas that are in our best economic interest, both in the short and long term.

You can also [view my appearance from today on MSNBC](#), in which I discuss the latest on the auto industry bailout.

I assure you that I will continue working to demand accountability for how your money is being spent.

Sincerely,

Scott Garrett  
Member of Congress

### **INAUGURATION TICKETS**

Thank you so much to everyone who called in to request tickets to the 2009 Presidential Inauguration. Our office has received more requests than our ticket allotment. Please feel free to contact us for additional information about public viewing areas.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: Medicare Open Enrollment**

Open Enrollment for Medicare Prescription Drug and Medicare Advantage Plans Begins November 15th

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued a press release announcing the start of the 2009 open enrollment for Medicare Prescription Drug and Medicare Advantage plans on November 15th. Updated 2009 Plan quality and performance ratings are now available on the Medicare Options Compare and Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder plan comparison tools at [medicare.gov](http://medicare.gov). These plan ratings are intended to help people with

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Medicare choose a Medicare Advantage health plan, a Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan, or a stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan by combining cost and coverage information with quality and performance information.

**CONGRESSMAN SCOTT GARRETT'S OFFICE COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU:**

Congressman Garrett's staff will be holding Mobile Constituent Service Hours in a number of Fifth District towns this week. The Congressman's Constituent Service Officers are trained to act as your liaisons with Federal agencies. But, it's not always easy to make it out to one of the Congressman's district offices – in Paramus and Newton – to meet with one of them, especially when you are dealing with government red tape. These Mobile Constituent Service Hours sessions bring the Congressman's office to you. So, if you are having trouble with a Federal program, such as Medicare, veterans benefits, Social Security, or more, please feel free to come by. And, please bring copies of any relevant paperwork with you to facilitate their work.

**Wednesday, November 19, 2008**

Ridgewood MCS  
10:00am-12:00pm  
Borough Hall, 131 N. Maple Avenue

**Wednesday, November 19, 2008**

Sandyston MCS  
10:00am-12:00pm  
Town Hall, 133 Route 645

**Wednesday, November 19, 2008**

Allendale MCS  
1:00-3:00pm  
Borough Hall, 500 W. Crescent Avenue

**Thursday, November 20, 2008**

Bloomingtondale MCS  
10:00am-12:00pm  
Council Chambers, 101 Hamburg Turnpike

**Thursday, November 20, 2008**

Dumont MCS  
1:00-3:00pm  
Town Hall - 50 Washington Avenue

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